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Laboratory Equipment (pp. 530-549): CHRISTIAN A. RUCKMICH. — Descriptions of the following apparatus are given: Tuning-fork of variable intensity, automatic tuning-fork hammers, adjustable wire forks, blind-spot apparatus, disc cutter, variable color mixer, apparatus for paired exposures, tambour, piston recorder, adjustable standard and 25 wall charts. *Notes on Practise Improvement, and the Curve of Work* (pp. 550-565): E. L. THORNDIKE. — Results are given on the learning curve in clerical work, relation between initial ability and improvement, the effect of a day of study and a night of rest, and the effect of rest on achievement and improvement. *Minor Studies from the Psychological Laboratory at Cornell University. On Cutaneous After Images* (pp. 566-569): F. L. DIMMICK. — After-sensation was always found. *On Perceptive Forms Below the Level of the Two-Point Limen* (pp. 569-571): E. DELASKI. — Subliminal separations are discriminable probably through a qualitative judgment. *Is Introspection Individual or Social, Within or Without?* (pp. 572-573): W. D. WALLIS. — The outside world is a part of the introspective individual as well as his being a part of it. *Book Review* (pp. 574-577): Pierre Janet, *Digest of "Alcoholism and Mental Depression"*: FREDERICK M. SMITH. *Book Notes. Index.*

Bjerre, Poul. *The History and Practise of Psychanalysis*. Tr. by Elizabeth N. Barrow. Boston: Richard G. Badger. 1916. Pp. 294. \$3.00.

Ellwood, Charles A. *An Introduction to Social Psychology*. New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 1917. Pp. xiv + 343.

Ferencezi, S. *Contributions to Psychanalysis*. Tr. by Ernest Jones. Boston: Richard G. Badger. 1916. Pp. iv + 288. \$3.00.

Gamble, Eleanor A., Editor. *Wellesley College Studies in Psychology. Psychological Monographs, Vol. XXII, No. 4*. Princeton, N. J.: Psychological Review Company. 1916. Pp. 192.

NOTES AND NEWS

At a meeting of the New York Psychiatrial Society, on December 6, 1916, a committee was appointed to inquire into the activities of psychologists and more particularly of those who have termed themselves "clinical psychologists" in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal mental conditions. This committee desires to make the following report.

We have been greatly impressed by the earnestness and success with which psychologists are endeavoring to make their science serv-

iceable in dealing with the practical affairs of every-day life. We wish to record our belief in the wide usefulness of the application of psychological knowledge and of the findings of certain psychological tests in such fields as the modification of educational methods with reference to individual differences, the vocational problems presented in various special industrial operations, the development of scientific methods in advertising, salesmanship, and other means of business appeal and in the investigation of such special problems as the relation of environmental factors to the quality and quantity of the output of the individual. We feel that the results to be attained in these fields fully justify the belief that the widening of the scope and application of psychological knowledge will make psychology one of the most useful of the social sciences instead of a narrow field for study and research with but little actual contact with the practical problem of life.

We have observed with much distrust, however, the growing tendency of some psychologists, most often, unfortunately, those with the least amount of scientific training, to deal with the problem of diagnosis, treatment, social management, and institutional disposal of persons suffering from abnormal mental conditions. We recognize the great value of mental tests in determining many questions which arise in dealing with such patients, but we have observed that most of such work which is being done by psychologists and particularly by persons whose training in psychology is confined entirely to learning how to apply a few sets of these tests, is carried on in schools, courts, correctional institutions and so-called "psychological clinics," quite independently of medically trained workers who are competent to deal with questions involving the whole mental and physical life of the individual.

We believe that the scientific value of work done under such conditions is much less than when carried on in close cooperation with that of physicians, and that serious disadvantages to patients suffering from mental disorders and to the community are likely to result and, in many instances which have come to our attention, have resulted. This is true especially when the mental condition of the patients examined involves questions of diagnosis, loss of liberty, or educational issues more serious than redistribution of pupils or rearrangement of courses of study. In spite of these facts two states have enacted laws permitting judges to commit mentally defective persons to institutions upon the so-called expert testimony of "clinical psychologists" regarding the abnormal mental conditions from which the patients are alleged to suffer. We believe that the examination upon which a sick person is involuntarily committed to permanent institutional custody is one of the most serious responsibilities

assumed by physicians and that in no cases whatever should it be entrusted to persons without training enabling them to take into consideration all the medical factors involved. The same is true of mental examinations of juvenile delinquents and criminals whose whole careers depend, in many cases, upon the determination of their mental condition.

We desire to make the following specific recommendations:

1. We recommend that the New York Psychiatric Society affirm the general principle that the sick, whether in mind or body, should be cared for only by those with medical training who are authorized by the state to assume the responsibility of diagnosis and treatment.

2. We recommend that the society express its disapproval and urge upon thoughtful psychologists and the medical profession in general an expression of disapproval of the application of psychology to responsible clinical work except when made by or under the direct supervision of physicians qualified to deal with abnormal mental conditions.

3. We recommend that the society disapprove of psychologists (or of those who claim to be psychologists as a result of their ability to apply any set of psychological tests) undertaking to pass judgment upon the mental condition of sick, defective, or otherwise abnormal persons when such findings involve questions of diagnosis, or affect the future care and career of such persons.

CHARLES L. DANA, *Chairman*,
ADOLF MEYER,
THOMAS W. SALMON.